LISTING OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Original) A device for the ventilation of a transmission case intended to hold liquid lubricant for transmission components, said device comprising:

a passage connected between a residual volume of air inside the transmission case and atmospheric pressure outside the transmission case;

the passage comprising a first section with a certain flow area and a second section with, by comparison, an at least approximately 50% larger flow area, the first section being situated between the atmosphere and the second section; and

a compressed air source connected to the passage between the inside of the transmission case and the first section.

2. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein passage further comprises a third section that extends between the inside of the transmission case and the second section.

3. (Original) The device as recited in claim 2, wherein the third passage section comprises a connection leading to the compressed air source.

4. (Original) The device as recited in claim 3, wherein the connection opens into the second passage section and is directed towards the first passage section.

5. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the second section of the passage is designed as a cylindrical chamber with a largely vertical longitudinal axis.

6. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the compressed air source consists of a ventilation port from an air cylinder.

7. (Original) The device as recited in claim 6, wherein the air cylinder is adapted to be used for the operation of transmission components in the transmission case.

8. (Original) The device as recited in claim 2, wherein the third passage section is designed so that it presents a greater flow resistance that the first passage section.

9. (Original) A device for ventilating a transmission case adapted to hold liquid lubricant for transmission components, said device comprising:

a passage connectable between a residual volume of air inside a transmission case and the atmosphere outside the transmission case, the passage comprising an expansion portion that tapers to a neck opening leading to atmospheric air that is to be drawn into the device;

the expansion portion being positioned downstream to the neck opening and having a sufficiently large area to cause suspended particles swept through the neck opening to fall out of suspension and be trapped therein; and

a compressed air source connected to the device and configured to backwash trapped particles from within the expansion portion.

10. (Original) The device as recited in claim 9, wherein a flow area of the neck opening is approximately 50% less than a flow area of the expansion portion.

11. (Original) The device as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

a conduit extending from the expansion portion and connectable to a residual volume of air inside a transmission case; and

an annulus formed at least partially about the conduit, the annulus establishing a flow path for compressed air utilized to backwash trapped particles from within the expansion portion.

12. (Previously Presented) A filterless device for ventilating a transmission case adapted to hold liquid lubricant for transmission components, said device comprising:

a passage connectable between a residual volume of air inside a transmission case and the atmosphere outside the transmission case, the passage comprising an expansion portion that tapers to a neck opening leading to atmospheric air that is to be drawn into the device;

the expansion portion being positioned downstream to the neck opening and having a sufficiently large area to cause suspended particles swept through the neck opening to fall out of suspension and be trapped therein.

13. (Previously Presented) The filterless device for ventilating a transmission case as recited in claim 12, said device further comprising:

the areas of the expansion portion and the neck opening being substantially open thereacross and filter medium free.